

*Israel: "This vote decides who is standing up for kids and who is standing up for special interests."*

Washington DC- Tuesday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) supported legislation to stave off teacher layoffs on Long Island and around the country. The legislation -- which is fully funded by cracking down on offshore tax loopholes -- will help make up state and local budget gaps that require teacher lay-offs.

"This Fall, Long Island kids could show up at schools with fewer teachers and larger class sizes," Israel said. "The repercussions of cuts at schools would be felt for years to come by the schoolchildren shortchanged on a good education. The passage of this legislation protects our teachers, our taxpayers and our kids."

Long Island has been hit hard by state budget cuts to local schools, losing more than \$172 million in the budget. The cuts resulted in teacher layoffs in districts throughout Long Island in June.

The House of Representatives returned from the district work period on Tuesday to finalize an aid package to states that would help restore those jobs. The legislation provides \$10 billion in aid to states to prevent layoffs of teachers and is paid for with cuts with unspent stimulus funds and closed tax loopholes on foreign companies.

Because the funding is sent through Albany, some have expressed concern that funding formulas would be used that would deprive Long Island schools of their fair share of school funding. Israel is urging Albany lawmakers to fight for Long Island's share.

Israel said, "New York State will get more than \$600 million in aid and it is vital that Albany not short Long Island of our fair share of funds. If the State uses the right formula, Long Island schools can receive more than \$100 million. But if it uses the wrong formulas, we only get \$7 million. I urge Governor Paterson and our State Legislators to use these funds wisely. Long Island cannot afford to be a donor region for schools around the state."